

Inside Wallops

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Student Flight Week Launch is Successful



Photo by Mike Hitch

Wallops hosted 34 students and teachers from as far away as Hawaii during Student Flight Week, June 6 - 10. Following several days of preparation the student experiments were launched on a NASA Improved-Orion sounding rocket from Wallops Island on June 9. The student payload was recovered from the Atlantic Ocean and returned to Wallops by 9:30 a.m.

National Student Involvement Program and Explorer School Students from nine different states spent the week at Wallops Flight Facility making final preparations on their experiments prior to launch.

Improved-Orion ready for launch

They were able to obtain knowledge of the engineering processes involved in placing a payload on a sounding rocket. During the week the students also toured the Facility, made presentations, viewed the launch from Wallops Island and deintegrated their payload.

Barbara Justis, NASA Education Flight Project Office was the principal investigator. Jay Scott, NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract, was the mission manager, and Brian Hall, NASA Range and Mission Management Office was the project manager. The payload was recovered and returned to the students.

Wallops Shorts.....



Photo by Ed Sudendorf

John Campbell, (right), Wallops Senior Manager, presented the quarterly Aviation Safety Superstar award to ES Action employee, Lowell Davis, a senior airfield mower, for his hard work and vigilance in helping keep airfield operations safe.

Launch

A NASA scientific balloon was launched from Ft. Sumner, N.M., on June 7. The 11.82 million cubic foot balloon carried the Far-Infrared Spectroscopy of the Troposphere (FIRST) instrument. Dr. Marty Mylnczak, NASA Langley Research Center, is the principal investigator. Total float time was 10 hours 39 minutes.

Executive Safety Council Recognizes Employees

During launch operations for Orion 30.056 (Hall, Va. Tech) approximately T-1:45 in the hot count, two boats were identified entering the established launch danger area. Although these boats were not seen on any of the graphic displays in the Range Control Center, they were visually detected which allowed the hot count to be held and an accident diverted. Five individuals were credited with recognizing the boats and relaying the information to the Test Director.

Pictured with John Campbell, Wallops Senior Manager are: (right), Betty Flowers, NASA Public Affairs; (bottom left to right) Mike Cropper, NASA Mechanical Systems Branch; Greg Haynes and Frank Balsis, Near Earth Network Services, (NENS). Not pictured, John Kamps, NENS, LJT

Photos by Keith Koehler



BLAST Takes Off



Esrang Photo

NASA launched a 40 million cubic foot scientific balloon in the midnight-sun from northern Sweden on Sunday, June 12.

The balloon-borne Large-Aperture Sub-millimeter Telescope (BLAST) weighing almost three tons, departed the Swedish Space Corporation's, Esrange, near Kiruna, on a westerly flight planned for 4 – 7 days. The balloon has reached a float altitude of 128,000 feet and will cross the Barents Sea, Greenland, and the Davis Strait before traveling across northern Canada. Termination will occur in northwestern Canada or Alaska.

BLAST will probe the sub-millimeter sky with unprecedented sensitivity. Its goals are to address some of the most important cosmological and galactic questions regarding the formation and evolution of stars, galaxies and clusters.

Dr. Mark Devlin, the University of Pennsylvania, is the Principal Investigator.

Hurricane Season is Here



With the tropical season usually increasing in intensity, be aware that this time of year should warrant extra caution as the Southeastern Coastal U.S. NOAA hurricane forecasters are predicting another above-normal hurricane season on the heels of last year's destructive and historic hurricane season.

The prediction is for 12 to 15 tropical storms, with seven to nine becoming hurricanes of which three to five could become major hurricanes.

Although hurricanes don't usually make direct hits in our northern latitude, we can often feel the effects of these storms as they move up the coast. We hope to continue our recent trend of avoiding Mother Nature's fury, but we should be prepared and aware of the potential dangers these storms can bring.

This year's Hurricane/Tropical Storm lineup is:

Arlene, Bret, Cindy, Dennis, Emily, Franklin, Gert, Harvey, Irene, Jose, Katrina, Lee, Maria, Nate, Ophelia, Philippe, Rita, Stan, Tammy, Vince, Wilma

Advanced Medical Directives

Presented by:
Dr. Rev. Kay Myers
Director, PRMC Pastoral Care
Department

Wednesday, June 22
Williamsburg Room – Building E-2
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

What is a Living Will?
Do I need one? Should I have one?
Have you wondered about advanced directives?
What are they?
How do I get them?
Do I need an attorney?

Balloons in the News

NOAA

"NASA High Altitude Balloon Seen Across Southern New Mexico and Eastern Arizona"

SpaceDaily

"BLAST Telescope Ready to be Launched by Giant Balloon"

Space.com

"BLAST Off! Stratospheric Telescope Studies Stars"

Associated Press

"NASA Sends Up Balloon Carrying Telescope"

CBC News

"Balloon-Borne Telescope Launches, With Canadian Help"

Yahoo!News

"NASA Sends up Balloon Carrying Telescope"

ABC News

"NASA Sends up Balloon Carrying Telescope"

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